

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that at least Claims 9-14 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form or made dependent from an allowable claim.

Accordingly, upon careful consideration of the art and in order to clearly and patentably distinguish thereover, applicants have amended the claims by incorporating Claim 9 and intervening Claim 8 into Claim 1, thereby placing allowable Claim 9 into independent form.

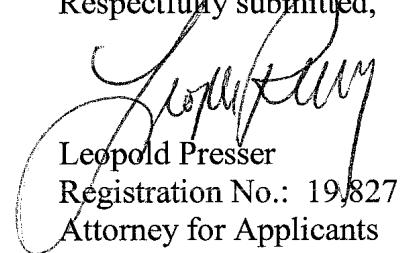
Furthermore, the remaining claims have been amended in their dependencies so as to be dependent either directly or indirectly from the amended Claim 1, which now incorporates allowable Claims 8 and 9, thereby placing all of the claims into substantial order for allowance.

Concerning the foregoing, applicants have also revised the terminology in Claims 1 and 2 to obviate minor typographical errors and to provide appropriate language, as requested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments, which are deemed to be fully responsive to the Examiner's requirements, the application is deemed to be in complete order for allowance and the early and favorable reconsideration and issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference or personal interview to discuss any matters in need of attention in order to place the application into order for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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